GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2251
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
OILSEEDS PRODUCTION
C. KRISHNAN;VAIKO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released any funds to NAFED and other agencies to increase the oilseeds production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the gap between oilseed supply and demand in the market;

(d) whether the farmers are switching over to other cash crops: and

(e) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) Ltd. is a central nodal agency to carry out the purchase operations of oilseeds on Minimum Support Prices (MSP).The State Departments of Agriculture are the implementing agencies for the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) to whom release of funds is made directly under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP).The States have flexibility to involve other agencies like State Oilseed Growers Federations,State Seed Corporations and State Agricultural Universities and other Cooperative Organizations.Funds are also provided to ICAR for production of breeder seeds and conducting frontline demonstrations.

(c): The country is not self sufficient in the production of oilseeds/edible oils and there is a gap between demand and supply which is met through import of edible oils. To increase the production of oilseeds in the country, a centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. Under the programme, various incentives by way of subsidy are being provided to the farmers in order to motivate them to take up oilseeds cultivation on a large scale. Recently MSPs of various oulseeds have been increased to motivate the farmers for undertaking the production of these crops on large scale.

(d): There is no report from any state about the switching over to other cash crops from oilseeds but due to the inclement weather conditions the area under oilseed crops has shown a declining trend.

(e): To increase the area under oilseed crops as well as the production of oilseeds, financial assistance by way of subsidy has been increased under various components of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) from the year 2000-2001 and procurement of oilseeds is done under Price Support Operation by NAFED when the market prices fall below MSP.